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Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 24-33 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. These claims will be pursued in a continuation application.

1. (previously presented) An isolated DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a poly ADP-ribose polymerase having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 2;
 - b) the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 1; and
 - c) a nucleotide sequence that is antisense to the full-length sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 1.
2. (previously presented) A chimeric nucleic acid sequence comprising a promoter capable of driving expression of a nucleic acid sequence in a plant cell operably linked to a nucleotide sequence of claim 1.
3. (previously presented) The chimeric nucleic acid sequence of claim 2, wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a poly ADP-ribose polymerase having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 2.
4. (previously presented) The chimeric nucleic acid sequence of claim 3, wherein said nucleotide sequence is the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 1.
5. (previously presented) A vector comprising the chimeric nucleic acid sequence of claim 4.
6. (previously presented) A plant cell transformed with the chimeric nucleic acid sequence of claim 4.

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7. (previously presented) A transformed plant comprising the chimeric nucleic acid sequence of claim 4.

8. (previously presented) The chimeric nucleic acid sequence of claim 2, wherein the nucleotide sequence is antisense to the full-length sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO.1.

9. (previously presented) A vector comprising the chimeric nucleic acid sequence of claim 8.

10. (original) A plant cell transformed with the vector of claim 9.

11. (previously presented) A transformed plant comprising the chimeric nucleic acid sequence of claim 8.

12. (previously presented) A transformed plant having incorporated into its genome a DNA molecule, said molecule comprising a promoter capable of driving expression of a nucleic acid sequence in a plant cell operably linked to a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a poly ADP-ribose polymerase having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 2;
- b) the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 1; and
- c) a nucleotide sequence that is antisense to the full-length sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 1.

13. (original) The transformed plant of claim 12, wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a poly ADP-ribose polymerase having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 2.

14. (original) The transformed plant of claim 13, wherein said coding sequence is the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 1.

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15. (previously presented) The transformed plant of claim 12, wherein the nucleotide sequence is antisense to the full-length sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 1.

16. (canceled)

17. (original) The transformed plant of claim 12, wherein said plant is a dicot.

18. (previously presented) The transformed plant of claim 12, wherein said plant is a monocot.

19. (original) The transformed plant of claim 18, wherein said plant is maize.

20. (original) Seed of the plant of any one of claims 17-19.

21. (previously presented) A method for modulating the metabolic state of a plant cell, said method comprising transforming said plant with a DNA construct, said construct comprising a promoter that drives expression in a plant cell operably linked with a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a poly ADP-ribose polymerase having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 2;
- b) the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 1; and
- c) a nucleotide sequence that is antisense to the full-length sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 1.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a poly ADP-ribose polymerase having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 2.

23. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein said coding sequence is the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO. 1.

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24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)

33. (canceled)